

Life By the Will of God

Intro:

1. Do you have trouble accepting struggles and difficult times in life?
2. Consider Paul's opening words to the church at Colosse — Col. 1:1-2.
3. You and I, as Christians, can learn to accept life, regardless of what is dealt us.
 - a. I must realize that life is by the providence of God.
 - b. I must realize I live as God's child.
 - c. I must realize I am part of a spiritual family.

Body:

- I. Life is by the providence of God — Col. 1:1.
 - A. Paul was an _____ of Christ Jesus through the will of God.
 - B. Paul had written to the church at Rome — Rom. 8:28.
 - C. He also wrote to the Philippians — Phil. 1:12, 19.
 - D. Paul realized that he lived according to the _____ of God and that life is by the grace of God — 1 Cor. 15:10.
 1. Knowing this, Paul had learned to live in confident _____ of God — Phil. 4:6-7, 11-13.
 - E. I can learn to accept life by developing that same understanding of God and of His powerful providential care.
- II. Christians have a special position as God's _____ — Col. 1:2.

Paul used three terms to describe those believers at Colosse.

 - A. _____.
 1. We are to be holy — 1 Pet. 1:15-16.
 2. One who is holy is devoted — 1 Cor. 1:2.

B. _____.

C. _____.

1. Where all spiritual blessing are found — Eph. 1:3.
- D. Paul understood that he could accept life for what it was by holding that special position

III. We have a spiritual family — Col. 1:2.

- A. They were all _____ in Christ.
 1. Consider the situation at Colosse.
 2. Paul wrote — Gal. 3:28.
 3. They were to love one another — Rom. 12:10.
 4. They were to care for one another — 1 Cor. 12:25-26; Rom. 12:15.
- B. They were _____ of the Almighty God — Gal. 3:26.
 1. They were, therefore, heirs of God — Rom. 8:17.
 2. Brethren with Jesus — Heb. 2:11.
- C. Paul understood what it meant to be a part of that spiritual family. He knew that he did not face life alone.
 1. He had _____ who stood by him — Acts 28:15; 2 Tim. 4:9.
 2. He had a loving _____ who would see him through — 2 Cor. 12:10; Acts 27:23-24.
- D. It should help each of us to know we do not face this life alone.

Conc:

1. Paul was able to find peace, joy, and hope regardless of his outward circumstances because he knew that he lived by the grace and by the providence of God, because he knew the special position he held as a believer in the exalted Christ, and because he knew he was part of a supportive, spiritual family with God as his Father.